News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE PAYS TRIBUTE TO MCDILL "HUCK" BOYD IN SENATE SPEECH

Washington, DC -- The following remarks were made on the Senate floor by Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) as a tribute to the late McDill "Huck" Boyd, Republican National Committeeman from Kansas, newspaper publisher and long-time friend:

"Last Friday evening the people of Kansas lost a good friend, McDill Boyd. His friends called him "Huck," and I am one who enjoyed the rare privilege and great honor of knowing him and learning from him.

"Without Huck Boyd, I might not be standing here today as a member of the United States Senate. Huck managed one of my first campaigns for Congress, back in 1962. He was with me every step of the way then, and every day since. Huck Boyd was my mentor in politics, as well as in many other aspects of my life.

"Huck was the publisher of the Phillips County Review, a weekly publication in north-central Kansas that shared the tidbits of news and views important to a small, rural community. He authored a series of articles on the shortage of doctors in rural Kansas, which led to the formation of the family practice department at the University of Kansas medical school. He led the effort to keep railroad services in northwestern Kansas, too. His work as a writer, editor and publisher earned him many honors, including the prestigious William Allen White Foundation award for journalistic merit.

"To Huck Boyd, what mattered to rural America and to small towns like Phillipsburg was as important, if not more important than, the great political battles of Washington. And Huck certainly knew those.

"Huck managed presidential campaigns in our state for Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon. He served as the Republican National Committeeman from our state for 21 years. And in 1968, 1972 and again in 1976 Huck managed the press operations at our national conventions.

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"Huck himself twice sought the governorship of Kansas, and though he was unsuccessful in both 1960 and 1964 he did not give up. He stayed active in our party, and contributed much to its growth and future victories.

"But for all the autographed pictures on his walls, and for all the plaques thanking him for countless good deeds, and for all the other honors bestowed on him, the real greatness and success of Huck Boyd was simply in the kind of person he was. To see him walking down the street, you'd never guess that he counseled presidents and governors and senators. But you could see that he was a devoted husband and a loving father.

"He was a simple, decent man who had a blind faith in his fellow man. He was never too important and was never too busy to offer a kind word to anyone, or to lend a helping hand or to do anything else that may ever have been asked of him.

"Huck Boyd passed away last Friday evening after a battle with cancer. He was 79 years young, and up to his final days was still going as strong as ever, assisting in the transition efforts of a new Republican governor. We will forever remember his great contributions to his family and his profession, his community and our state, and to our party and our country. His wife Marie and family are in my thoughts and prayers, and the people of Kansas join me, I am sure, in this tribute.

"Huck Boyd did with astuteness, compassion and class what the rest of us strive to do - serve the people. He leaves a large pair of shoes to fill; they may never be filled. And many of us will walk in his shadow for years to come."